

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An ophthalmological composition which comprises 3-hydroxybutyric acid and/or salts thereof as active ingredients and is used to treat tear abnormality.

2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the treatment of the tear abnormality is achieved by an improvement in the stability of a tear layer and/or an improvement in the retention of tear on the keratoconjunctive.

3. (Original) The composition of claim 2, wherein the improvement in the stability of the tear layer is achieved by inhibition of evaporation of tear.

4. (Original) The composition of claim 2, wherein the improvement in the stability of the tear layer is achieved by an improvement in tear layer breakup time.

5. (Original) The composition of claim 2, wherein the improvement in the retention of tear is achieved by retention of keratoconjunctive epithelium cells in a normal state and/or restoration of the keratoconjunctive epithelium cells to the normal state.

6. (Original) The composition of claim 2, wherein the improvement in the retention of tear is achieved by retention of the microvilli/microfolds of keratoconjunctive epithelium cells in a normal state and/or restoration of the microvilli/microfolds of the keratoconjunctive epithelium cells to the normal state.

7. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the tear abnormality is tear abnormality without impairments on the keratoconjunctive.

8. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the treatment of the tear abnormality is inhibition of the occurrences of diseases caused by the tear abnormality.

9. (Original) The composition of claim 8, wherein the treatment of the tear abnormality is inhibition of the occurrences of diseases caused by the tear abnormality without impairments on the keratoconjunctive.

10. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the concentration of 3-hydroxybutyric acid and/or salts thereof is 0.8 to 800 mmol/l.

11. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the concentration of 3-hydroxybutyric acid and/or salts thereof is 10 to 150 mmol/l.

12. (Previously Presented) A method for treating tear abnormality which comprises applying the composition of claim 1 to a patient having tear abnormality as eye drops in an amount effective in treating the tear abnormality.

13. – 14. (Cancelled)